

9
RURAL DISTRICT OF SEISDON
(STAFFORDSHIRE)

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

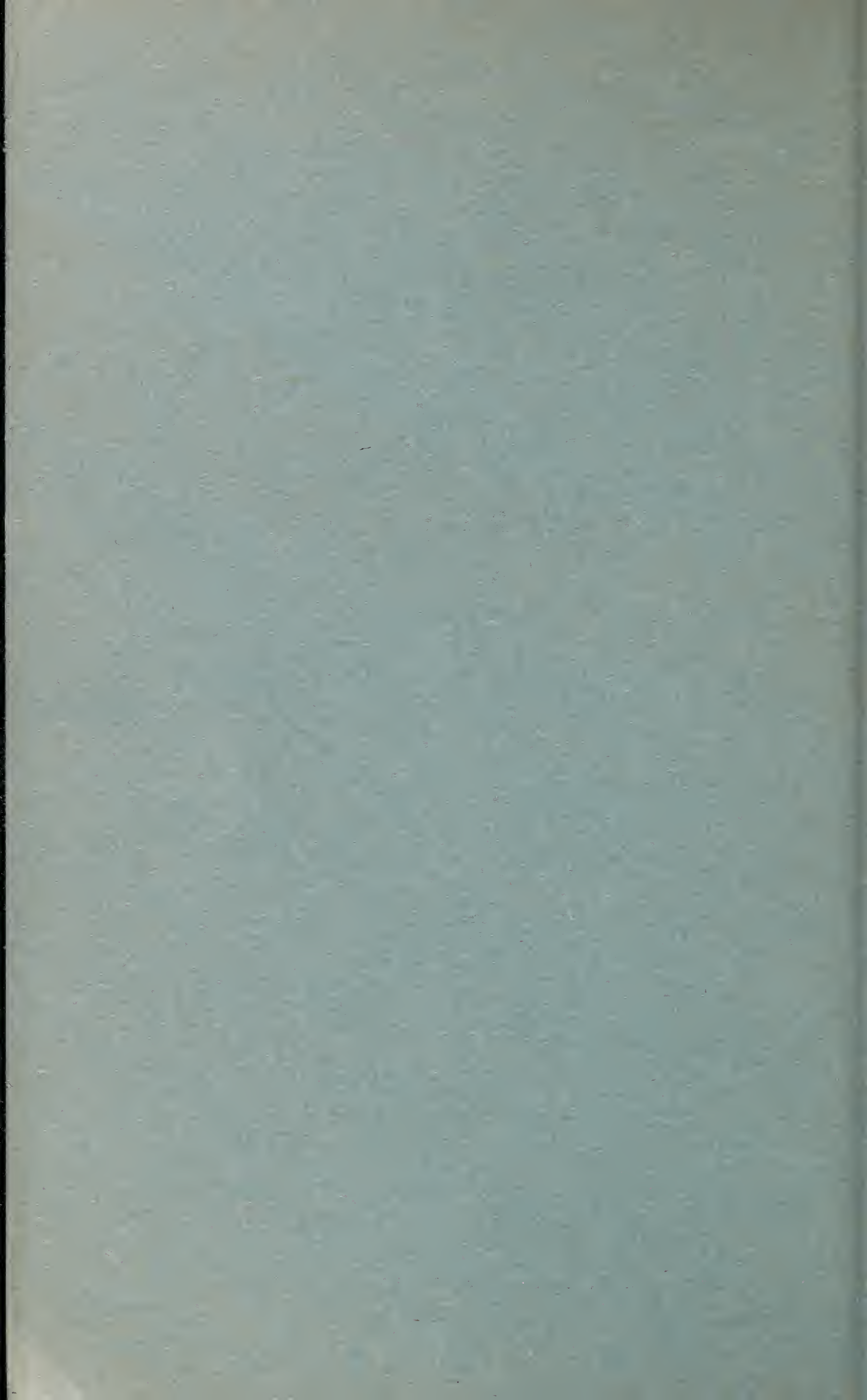
Director of Public Health

FOR THE YEAR

1970

Council Offices,
WOMBOURNE,
Wolverhampton.

Tel. No. : WOMBOURNE 2454-8



SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1970)

Chairman :

Councillor J. INCH

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor J. C. SALMON

Councillor E. WATERFIELD (Chairman of the Council).

Councillor G. A. WALLEY (Vice-Chairman of the Council).

Councillor D. E. BRAMALL (Deputy Chairman of the Council).

Councillors L. J. A. BENNETT
G. H. HARRIS, C.C.
J. T. HILL
F. L. HOPSON
A. JEFFRIES
Mrs. P. M. JENKINS
E. L. JONES
I. A. KELLY
Miss E. E. LAURIE
K. E. MACKIE
H. F. McTAGGART, C.C.
P. F. PATEMAN
T. PREECE
M. STONESTREET
F. L. TOOBY
W. L. TURNER

PUBLIC HEALTH PERSONNEL

A. F. DUKES, M.B., Ch.B.

(Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent)
E. H. ROBERTS, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection.

H. F. ROBINSON, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection.

E. F. KELLY, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection.

G. DRAYCOTT, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection,
Smoke Inspector's Certificate,
Testamur—Institute of Public Cleansing.

W. E. JEVONS, P.H.I. Cert., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection,
Testamur—Institute of Public Cleansing.

(Duties of P.H.I.'s : Statutory Duties prescribed by Public Health Officer's Regulations ; Public Cleansing ; Petroleum and Shops Acts.)

C. R. WEAVER

D. NALLY (until October) Mrs. K. I. BAKER (until September)
Miss J. WOODWARD Miss H. M. JORDAN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1970

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Seisdon Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the rural district for the year 1970.

The vital statistics continue to compare favourably with the national figures. Although the population only increased by 270, the number of houses increased by 405. The birth rate has dropped below the national average and the number of stillbirths has risen ; but infant mortality rates remain the same as in the previous year and below the national average. The trend towards hospital delivery continues and over three-quarters of all babies born in the district were delivered in hospital.

It is encouraging to see that the number of people dying from lung cancer has come down. Whether this has been helped by the no smoking campaigns or not is difficult to assess, but these campaigns should be continued and extended to all sectors of the community, including comprehensive schools. The incidence of deaths from respiratory diseases is lower but it should be realised that there is still room for improvement and active measures to reduce air pollution should be encouraged.

Swabs taken from several of the brooks in the area have been found to contain harmful bacteria. Notices have been put up at fords where children might congregate to paddle, warning them of the dangers. Parents should reinforce this advice to their children as it could be a health hazard.

Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Measles have all increased during the year and it is to be hoped that girls between the ages of 10—14 will be encouraged to be immunised against German Measles.

I take this opportunity of thanking various persons for their co-operation and advice during the past year and record particular appreciation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, Mr. A. R. Baskett, Chief Executive Officer of the Rural District Council, Mr. F. Bagley, Director of Technical Services to the Rural District Council, Miss H. Clark, Housing Officer, and Mr. E. H. Roberts, Director of Public Health.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. F. DUKES

September, 1971.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Population

Registrar-General

	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Persons</i>
1/7/68	38,840	+ 780
1/7/69	39,200	+ 360
1/7/70	39,470	+ 270

HOUSES

Total number of inhabited houses in the Rural District :—

1st April, 1969	..	..	..	12,723
1st April, 1970	..	..	..	13,128

Sum represented by a penny rate 1969-70—£6,694

1970-71—£6,890

Rateable Value 1969-70—£1,595,742

1970-71—£1,648,684

General Rate 1969-70—13/2d. in the £.

1970-71—70p in the £.

(plus various additional Parochial Rates).

Area : 43,495 acres, *i.e.* 68 square miles.

VITAL STATISTICS 1970

Live Births :					Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	..	298	290	588
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	291	274	565
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	7	16	23

Still Births :					Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	..	5	9	14
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	4	9	13
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	—	1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

					Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	..	6	4	10
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	6	4	10
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age :

					Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	..	5	4	9
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	5	4	9
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under one week of age :

					Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	..	4	2	6
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	4	2	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—

	Seisdon R.D.C. 1969	Seisdon R.D.C. 1970	England & Wales 1970
Number of Live Births	656	588	—
Rate per 1,000 population	16.7	14.9	16.0
Illegitimate Live Births (% of total live births)	5%	4%	—
Number of Still Births	9	14	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births... ..	14.0	23.0	13.0
Total Live and Still Births	665	602	—
Infants Deaths (deaths under one year)	11	10	—
Infant Mortality Rates—Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	17.0	17.0	18.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	13.0	18.0	17.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births... ..	88.0	Nil	26.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	11.0	15.0	12.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	11.0	10.0	11.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births)	24.0	33.0	23.0
Maternal Mortality (including abortion) number of deaths	Nil	Nil	—
Comparability Factor (Births)	0.79	0.79	—
Standardised Birth Rate	13.2	11.8	—
Domiciliary Births	29.1% 191	24.0% 139	— —
Hospital Births	465	440	—

DEATHS

	1969 Seisdon	1970 Seisdon	1970 England & Wales
Deaths (at all ages) :			
Total for Sesidon	326	345	—
Males	160	182	—
Females	166	163	—
Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.3	8.7	11.7
Comparability Factor	1.5	1.48	—
Standardised Death Rate	12.5	12.9	—
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil	Nil	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	35 M. 30 F. 65 Total	38. M. 36 F. 74 Total	—
Live Births exceeded total deaths by	330	243	—

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1970

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..	1	—	1
Late effects of respiratory T.B. ..	—	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus ..	1	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	6	6	12
Malignant neoplasm, intestine ..	3	3	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	11	4	15
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	—	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, prostate ..	2	—	2
Leukaemia ..	4	—	4
Other malignant neoplasms ..	10	10	20
Diabetes mellitus ..	3	2	5
Other endocrine, etc., diseases ..	—	1	1
Anaemias ..	—	1	1
Mental disorders ..	2	1	3
Other diseases of nervous system ..	1	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ..	3	4	7
Hypertensive disease ..	2	2	4
Ischaemic heart disease ..	49	39	88
Other forms of heart disease ..	10	10	20
Cerebrovascular disease ..	24	27	51
Other diseases of circulatory system ..	1	6	7
Influenza ..	4	1	5
Pneumonia ..	7	6	13
Bronchitis and emphysema ..	14	3	17
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2	1	3
Peptic ulcer ..	2	1	3
Appendicitis ..	—	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system ..	2	3	5
Nephritis and nephrosis ..	—	2	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ..	—	1	1
Congenital anomalies ..	3	3	6
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ..	1	—	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality ..	1	1	2
Symptoms and ill defined conditions ..	—	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents ..	7	2	9
All other accidents ..	3	5	8
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ..	2	—	2
Totals ..	182	163	345

BIRTH RATES

	SEISDON		England and Wales
Year	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate
1967	693	18.2	17.2
1968	612	15.8	16.9
1969	656	16.7	16.3
1970	588	14.9	16.0

DEATH RATES

	SEISDON			England and Wales
Year	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Standardised Death Rate	Death Rate
1967	298	7.82	10.9	11.2
1968	304	7.83	11.8	11.9
1969	326	8.3	12.5	11.9
1970	345	8.7	12.9	11.7

LOCALITY-DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(excluding Tuberculosis) notified in 1970

Disease	TOTAL	Bobington	Codsall	Enville	Himley	Kinver	Lower Penn	Patshull	Pattingham	Swindon	Trysull and Seisdon	Wombourne	Wrotesley
Scarlet Fever	8	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Measles	182	1	77	—	3	—	2	—	18	2	2	61	16
Infective Jaundice	20	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8
Whooping Cough	8	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	5	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1970

Deaths from causes stated, and at various ages, under one year of age :

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under one month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total deaths under one year.
Prematurity	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Birth injury	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital abnormalities ...	3	1	1	1	6	—	1	—	—	7
Totals	6	1	1	1	9	—	1	—	—	10

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Year	SEISDON			England and Wales Rate per 1,000 Births	Average (Seisdon) for last 5 years
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1966	708	15	21.2	19.0	21.0
1967	693	8	11.5	18.3	19.9
1968	612	8	13.0	18.0	17.4
1969	656	11	17.0	18.0	18.0
1970	588	10	17.0	18.0	15.9

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(i.e. stillbirths, plus deaths of infants under one week of age, per 1,000 total live births and still births).

			England and Wales	Seisdon R.D.
1966	..	..	26.3	23.7
1967	..	..	25.4	19.9
1968	..	..	25.0	25.6
1969	..	..	23.0	24.0
1970	..	..	23.0	33.0

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

Voluntary Services—Meals-on-Wheels

These voluntary services are now operating in Pattingham in addition to Kinver, Wombourne, Codsall and Enville. Appreciation of the voluntary work carried out by the ladies and gentlemen of these villages in performing this service is here recorded. Also one would wish to thank the Committee of the Staffordshire County Council and the School Meals Service. As far as possible we have tried to use it for elderly persons who are handicapped and isolated in their homes. The Rural District Council and the Staffordshire County Council have contributed both by advice and by financial help.

In Wombourne area the meals are prepared at the canteen of the Midland Aluminium Limited, at a very modest charge. Our grateful thanks are due to this firm for their generous and ready help. Both Meals-on-Wheels and Luncheon Club function in Wombourne and are organised and carried out by the services of the R.W.V.S.

1969/70 Meals-on-Wheels :

Codsall	..	..	2,156 meals supplied
Kinver	..	..	1,269 " "
Wombourne	..	..	1,628 " "
Enville	..	..	274 " "

1969/70 Wombourne Luncheon Club :

1,665 meals supplied

The net expenditure on the above for 1969/70 was £302.

Estimates for 1970/71 :

Meals-on-Wheels	..	6,160 meals
Luncheon Club	..	1,660 " "
		<hr/>
		7,820 " "
		<hr/>

Estimated net expenditure on above £461.

Clinics

These are the responsibility of the Staffordshire County Council and are situated throughout the district as follows:—

The Clinic, Mill Lane, Wombourne.
The Clinic, Elliotts Lane, Codsall.
The Clinic, High Street, Kinver.
The Clinic, New Village Hall, Pattingham.

Contributions

The Rural District Council contributes financially to the following organisations:—

The Chest and Heart Association.
The Central Council for Health Education.
Dudley and District Family Planning Association.
Bilston and District Family Planning Clinic.
Marriage Guidance Council (Wolverhampton Branch).
Midland Federation of Home Safety Committee.
Midlands Joint Advisory Clean Air Council.
National Society for Clean Air.
N.S.P.C.C.
Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents.
Wolverhampton Samaritans.
Wireless for the Bedridden Society.

I am indebted to Mr. F. Bagley, C.Eng., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.I.C.E., the Council's Surveyor, for the following report on Rainfall, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, Water and Housing. The report is dated 18th February, 1971.

RAINFALL

The average rainfall over the Seisdon Area during 1970 was 28.24 inches, which compares with the average rainfall for the standard 25 year period 1891-1915 of 27.14 inches; the wettest month was November with 4.62 inches and the driest month was May with .45 inches. The average rainfall in 1969 was 27.85 inches and in 1968 was 29.32 inches.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Work commenced on the schemes for the extension of Wombourne and Kinver Sewage Disposal Works on the 11th May, 1970, and good progress has been made. The completion date for the Kinver contract is 11th March, 1971, and for the Wombourne contract 11th August, 1971. The Severn River Authority have not lifted the prohibition on building in respect of property draining into these Works.

A small length of sewer has been laid joining existing sewers in Orton Lane and Bratch Lane, Bullmeadow, Wombourne, for the relief of surcharging at a cost of £2,000 and a further length of sewer has been laid at The Straits in the Parish of Himley by arrangement with the County Borough of Dudley at a cost of £1,000 for the drainage of houses which had previously been drained by dumbwells. A new percolating filter bed has also been constructed at Bobbington S.D.W. by direct labour.

WATER

During the year improvements have been carried out by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company in the Stone Lane and Meddins Lane area of Kinver and in the higher levels of Six Ashes Road. No complaints have been received concerning inadequate supply during the period.

HOUSING

During 1970, 28 Council Houses were completed comprising one at Swindon, five at Rookery Road, Wombourne, two at Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, and 20 at Wolverhampton Road, Pattingham, making a total of 3,291 completed since 1945. In addition 53 private houses were completed as compared with 154 in 1969.

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies within the area have been generally satisfactory both in quality and quantity. As can be seen from the subsequent table only a very small proportion of the houses in the area are without a mains supply.

Parish.	Total Dwelling-houses in Parish April, 1970	Estimated Population at mid-April, 1970	Houses on Mains Supply Direct to House	Estimated Population
Bobbington ...	165	503	163	497
Codsall ...	3,004	9,163	3,004	9,163
Enville ...	187	573	172	528
Himley ...	261	796	261	796
Kinver ...	2,381	7,262	2,381	7,262
Lower Penn ...	539	1,643	539	1,643
Patshull ...	58	176	55	163
Pattingham ...	643	1,961	636	1,940
Swindon ...	266	810	266	810
Trysull and Seisdon	341	1,040	335	1,019
Wombourne ...	3,897	11,886	3,897	11,886
Wrottesley ...	1,399	4,267	1,397	4,261
Totals ...	13,141	40,080	13,106	39,968

There are no houses supplied from mains by means of stand-pipes ; but there are 35 houses with an estimated population of 112 which have private water supplies.

Bacteriological tests on all public and private supplies throughout the area are carried out as a routine measure and investigations are made into all unsatisfactory reports. The following Table summarises the bacteriological examinations made during the year.

Water Undertaking	Total Samples Taken.	Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory
Wolverhampton Corporation ...	15	15	—
The South Staffordshire Water-works Company ...	138	134	4
East Shropshire Water Board ...	4	4	—
Enville Estates Private Supply ...	42	41	1
Other Private Supplies ...	61	45	16

The following four Water Undertakings supply the parishes as mentioned.

- (a) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking supplies the Parishes of Codsall, Wrottesley, Patshull, Pattingham, Trysull and Seisdon, Lower Penn, Wombourne, Himley and Swindon.
- (b) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company supplies Kinver, Enville and Bobbington.
- (c) East Shropshire Water Board supplies parts of Enville and Bobbington.

I am very much indebted to the respective Water Engineers of the above mentioned Water Authorities for the following information :—

(a) **Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.**

- (1) The sources of supply are The Bratch, Dimmingsdale, Tom Hill and Hilton Waterworks, and Tettenhall No. 2 Reservoir.
- (2) No artificial fluoridation of the supply is carried out. Natural fluoride content at any point within the supply area will fall within the range 0.02 to 0.13 parts per million.
- (3) The waters supplied are not plumbo solvent.
- (4) In addition to bacteriological examinations, microbiological, biological, chemical and radiological tests were carried out.
- (5) The estimated total population supplied is 373,434 including 30,500 residents in our District.
- (6) The following table indicates the hardness of water being distributed :—

District	Hardness	
	mgms. per litre	(Clark) Degrees
Seisdon and Trysull	105—323	7—23
Swindon, Smestow, Blakeley and Wombourne	105—284	7—20
Himley	269—280	19—20
Orton, Lower Penn, Nurton and Perton	269—331	19—24
Bilbrook, Codsall, Codsall Wood and Oaken	220—305	16—22
Pattingham	272—331	20—24

(b) **South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.**

- (1) The supply is derived from Ashwood, Cookley and Kinver Pumping Stations and Hampton Loade Treatment Works.
- (2) The naturally occurring fluoride content of the supplying stations shows less than 0.1 p.p.m.
- (3) The waters from the supplying stations are not liable to plumbo solvency.
- (4) Bacteriological and chemical tests are carried out at Ashwood, Cookley and Kinver Pumping Stations and bacteriological samples are also taken from Kinver Reservoir.

(c) **East Shropshire Water Board.**

- (1) The source of this supply is the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct.
- (2) The fluoride content is maintained at 1.0 p.p.m.
- (3) The raw Elan water has a plumbo-solvent action which is corrected by the addition of hydrated lime at the Elan Valley Works before entering the Aqueduct.
- (4) Water is treated by chlorination at Trimpby and held in a Reservoir at Quatt before passing to the Seisdon Rural District.

(e) **Swimming Pools**

Swimming Pools exist at two schools situated at Codsall and Wombourne and these are tested by the Staffordshire County Council.

HOUSING

Local Authority Houses—Waiting List

The Housing Officer kindly supplied the following statistics as at 31st December, 1970 :—

Families living in condemned properties	..	26
Families eligible and requiring housing	.. ..	423
Families deferred for various reasons	.. ..	150
Families ineligible, because are householders	.. ..	129
		<hr/>
		728
		<hr/>

The total number of Council houses (including flats and bungalows) in the Seisdon Rural District at 31st December, 1970 3,463

Number of families housed from waiting list during 1970 :

Re-lets (overspill)	.. .. .	7
Re-lets (Seisdon)	.. .. .	99
In new dwellings	.. .. .	17
		<hr/>
		123
		<hr/>

Improvement Grants—Housing

(a)	Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/67	..	£6,000
(b)	Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/68	..	£6,640
(c)	Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/69	..	£8,183
(d)	Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/70	..	£6,287
(e)	The number of houses recommended for Improvement Grants in 1970.. ..		40

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

								<i>Cases Notified</i>
Scarlet Fever								
1968	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1970	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8

Whooping Cough								
1968	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
1970	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is available at Infant Welfare Clinics throughout the Rural District and at the General Practitioners' Surgeries.

								<i>Cases Notified</i>
Measles								
1968	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	257
1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114
1970	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	182

Infective Jaundice								
1968	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
1970	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20

Diphtheria

No case of Diphtheria occurred in the year. The last case of Diphtheria in the Rural District occurred in 1950, in which year there were two cases. Immunisation against Diphtheria is available at Clinics throughout the Rural District, and also at the General Practitioners' Surgeries.

Number of children immunised against Diphtheria have been as follows :—

								1970
Primary Immunisation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72
Reinforcement Immunisation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	423
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	495

Tetanus. Immunisation against Tetanus :—

Primary Tetanus Immunisation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
Reinforcement Tetanus Immunisation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	515
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	590

Triple Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus :

Primary Triple Immunisation	..	..	..	543
Reinforcement Triple Immunisation	..	..	..	277
Total	..	..	..	820

Infantile Paralysis (Poliomyelitis)

Poliomyelitis vaccine given in 1970 :

Primary Polio vaccine	..	..	..	640
Reinforcement Polio vaccine	..	..	..	678
Total	..	..	..	1,318

There have been 24 cases of Poliomyelitis in the Rural District in the last 21 years. One of these cases died. The last case of Poliomyelitis occurred in 1960.

Smallpox. Vaccinations against Smallpox.

Initial Vaccinations :					1970
Under one year	..	..	..	..	1
Age group 1—4	..	..	..	..	364
Age groups 5—15	..	..	..	..	25
					390
Re-vaccinations :					
Age groups 1—4..	..	..	..	..	1
Age groups 5—15	..	..	..	..	17
					18

Measles. Vaccination against Measles.

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	2
Age group 1—4	..	..	..	..	321
Age groups 5—15	..	..	..	..	108
					431

General Measures.

School notifications of infectious diseases are carefully scrutinised and made prompt use of for the purpose of guidance and location.

TUBERCULOSIS

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
On Register 31/12/69 ..	50	54	3	4
Cases entered on Register 1970	4	2	1	1
Cases removed from Register during 1970	3	8	—	—
Remaining on Register 31/12/70	51	48	4	5
Total	99		9	

Total Number of Cases on Register :

	At 31/12/68	At 31/12/69	At 31/12/70
Pulmonary—Male	50	50	51
Pulmonary—Female	57	54	48
Non-Pulmonary—Male ..	4	3	4
Non-Pulmonary—Female ..	5	4	5
	116	111	108
Number per 1,000 population (Seisdon)	3.0	2.8	2.7
Average for Staffs. C.C. per 1,000 population	5.2	4.4	3.7
Number of Deaths of Seisdon Residents (Tuberculosis) ..	Nil	Nil	2

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
for the Year 1970**

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Seisdon Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourteenth Annual Report on the work of the Public Health and Cleansing Departments.

As this is being written whilst Parliament's proposals for Local Government re-organisation threaten to obliterate this Rural District entirely, it seems an appropriate time to look back and take stock of what has been achieved by the progressive action of your Rural District Council over the last fifteen years.

Water Supply : All twelve Parishes have satisfactory mains water supply, and only thirty seven houses throughout the whole district are dependent on private supplies, and these are of satisfactory quality.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal : In every Parish the main centres of development are sewered, and sewage is treated at properly designed disposal works by modern methods. The larger three works can now treat flows of 320,000, 834,000 and 1,333,000 gallons per day respectively. This makes interesting comparison with the antiquated and often offensive method of land irrigation treatment, whereby several million gallons per day of sewage from neighbouring large authorities are irrigated over land within the Rural District.

Housing : Over 600 unfit dwellings have been dealt with under the Housing Acts and their occupants re-housed ; over 500 houses have been modernised with the aid of improvement grants ; and more than 1,000 other houses have been brought up to a reasonable standard of repair and maintenance due to the action of your officers.

Caravans : A decisive policy of re-grouping under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 resulted in the creation of four modern caravan parks with good standards of amenity, and twelve single caravan sites licensed for specific purposes, in place of 44 sites with very little amenity which were scattered throughout the district before the Act. One of these four large parks was your own Hinksford Mobile Homes Park, which will stand comparison with the best in the country.

Food Hygiene : Your officers have always given certain priorities to the maintenance of a good standard of hygiene in all food premises throughout the district ; but we are ever mindful of the needs for improvement in this field. 100% meat inspection was carried out in this district for many years before the legal obligations were imposed.

Clean Air : Improvements with regard to smoke emissions from industrial premises have been substantial, and contraventions of the Clean Air Acts are now extremely rare ; in contrast, progress for the reduction of domestic smoke emission has so far been slow and mainly limited to the voluntary conversion of appliances by householders. However the delays in implementing your 15 year programme of domestic smoke control have been caused by circumstances beyond your control, firstly financial stringencies, and secondly the problem of availability of solid smokeless fuel.

Public Cleansing Services : A weekly collection of domestic refuse from all households in the Rural District has been operated since 1962, when work study incentive bonus schemes were applied to all the services. A programme of conversion from dustbins to refuse sacks is now in progress. Large closed containers are situated throughout the district for surplus domestic refuse, a proper way of satisfying the requirements of the Civic Amenities Act ; free collections of bulky household refuse have operated for many years ; and cesspools and septic tanks are emptied upon demand. All disposal services are properly controlled.

Offices and Workplaces : With your Council's staff working in a modern office block, and your manual employees working from a modern depot, which is equipped with all necessary amenities, your officers suffer no embarrassment when inspecting and sometimes criticising the offices and working conditions of other organisations.

One of the declared objectives of the Government's proposals for Local Government re-organisation is to create areas which are large enough in size, population and resources, to meet administrative needs for the provision of effective and economic services. It can well be said, Mr. Chairman, that the record of this authority's achievements clearly indicates that it has had the ability to meet the administrative needs with its existing size, population and resources. My own 30 years experience in the Public Health Service with authorities ranging from County Borough to Rural District have left me in no doubt that size of authority can be a misleading criterion in judging the ability to operate effective and economic services.

Particular problems during 1970 have continued to be the manner of operation of private tips, and the despoiling of the countryside by litter. As a result of close co-operation with the Police many offenders were prosecuted and fined under the Litter Act, but the activities of the Keep Britain Tidy Group must continue to receive the full support of all authorities in order to maintain an effective national campaign against litter.

As a result of the more attractive grants for house improvement contained in the Housing Act, 1969, there was a noticeable escalation in the applications received for improvement grants during 1970 ; equally encouraging was the steadily increasing interest of owners in applying for qualification certificates for the conversion of controlled tenancies to regulated tenancies with the consequent increase in rent. The conditions necessarily imposed had the benefit of ensuring that more houses were being brought up to a good standard of repair and maintenance.

Re-organisation of the departmental structures carried out towards the end of the year resulted in the transfer to other departments of two clerical officers who had given many years service to the Public Health Department. I would like to place on record my appreciation of the faithful service over a long period of time by Mr. D. Nally, and for a lesser number of years the excellent work done by Mrs. K. Baker.

I thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continuing confidence and encouragement, and all my colleagues in other Departments for their co-operation. To the staff of the Department both professional and clerical, and to the manual workers in the cleansing services, I would express my appreciation for all their work throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. H. ROBERTS,

September, 1971.

Director of Public Health.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 1970

FOOD

Routine visiting of all premises used for the storage, processing, packaging and distribution of food, is carried out by the Public Health Inspectors who ensure by enforcing compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations that food intended for human consumption, is handled properly and sold in a fit condition. The table of improvements which is included in this report each year shows how necessary this repetitive visiting is if a satisfactory standard is to be maintained.

We are always appreciative of those members of the public who draw our attention to food which does not appear to be fit for consumption or which has been improperly handled. I like to think that people are now more particular in the way in which their food is handled and presented to them ; and yet there are still so many households which are content to see food delivered to them and left on the doorstep until they return home.

Not all shopkeepers are yet operating a proper system of stock rotation for perishable foods, and in consequence, food is occasionally sold in a stale and sometimes mouldy condition. If and when such foods are marked with the date of production, and there is now a real demand for this to be done, customers will be satisfying themselves that their purchases are fresh, and the dilatory shopkeeper is more likely to have his stale food left on his hands.

Food Premises.

There are a total of 236 food premises within the district and 364 inspections of these were carried out ; the following summary indicates the number of each type of premises :—

<i>Type of Food Premises.</i>	<i>No. of Premises.</i>
Bakehouses	1
Butchers' Shops	24
Cafes, Snack Bars and Works Canteens	21
Fried Fish Shops	8
Grocers Shops	78
Hotels and Restaurants	17
Public Houses.. .. .	46
Other Food Premises.. .. .	41

All these 236 premises are fitted with adequate personal washing facilities to comply with Regulation 18 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970.

Regulation 21, which requires the provision of facilities for the washing of food and equipment, applies to 226 of these premises and all these 226 premises are fitted to comply with the Regulation 21.

As a result of these routine inspections and the service of some 45 informal notices the following improvements were effected during the year to the various food premises as shown.

	Structurally Improved	Premises Redecorated	Improved Equipment Provided	Improved Personal Hygiene and Handling	Improved Sanitary Accommodation.
Butchers Shops	1	4	—	2	—
Cafes, Snack Bars and Works	—	5	1	2	1
Canteens	—	—	—	—	—
Fried Fish Shops	1	2	1	1	—
Grocers Shops	1	14	7	4	—
Hotels and Restaurants ..	—	4	1	2	1
Public Houses	1	1	1	4	5
Other Food Premises	—	7	—	7	—
Total	4	37	11	22	7

Food Vehicles

Mobile Shops and delivery vehicles are inspected under the 1966 Hygiene Regulations, and as can be seen from the table that follows compliance with these regulations is not as good as it should be. Furthermore it is often difficult to organise re-inspections of particular vehicles which do not always travel on the same routes. Where vehicles are based outside the district, the Public Health Inspector of the area concerned is notified to ensure that remedial works are carried out. For these reasons it is not possible to include an accurate table of improvements effected.

	<i>Mobile Food Shops</i>	<i>Food Delivery Vehicles</i>
Number of vehicles inspected	41	29
<i>Contraventions</i>		
Section 5— Unsatisfactory condition of vehicle ..	3	1
Section 9— Unsatisfactory overclothing ..	3	—
Section 13— Name and address not displayed ..	7	1
Section 16— Inadequate personal washing facilities provided	8	—
Section 17— First aid materials not provided ..	1	—
Section 18— Inadequate washing facilities for food equipment	2	—

Licensed Clubs

The opportunity in the Licensing Act, 1964, to make reports to the Licensing Justices upon the suitability of club premises continues to prove a valuable adjunct to the existing powers of the Food and Drugs Act.

During the year special reports were made upon eight club premises, and a total of 28 inspections of club premises were carried out.

Slaughterhouses

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district, one in Pattingham operated by a Wholesale Meat Company and the other a private butcher's slaughterhouse in Codsall. The Construction Regulations have been operative since 1st April, 1961, and compliance with these Regulations has been maintained; for this purpose 19 inspections were made.

We have continued to receive good co-operation from the operators of both these slaughterhouses with regard to hours of slaughter and no action has therefore been necessary to control them.

Meat Inspection

During the year your Inspectors paid a total of 490 visits to the slaughterhouses for the inspection of meat to ensure its fitness for human consumption and this involved the physical examination of 2,510 carcasses and their respective organs.

The inspection table which follows shows the complete absence once again of bovine tuberculosis, and the presence of tuberculosis in the organs of pigs was again very low. No *Cysticercus Bovis* was found during the year but other parasitic infestations again accounted for most of the other organs condemned. Most of the carcasses condemned were casualty animals. Virus pneumonia was again very prevalent in pigs.

It is estimated that the total weight of meat and offal condemned was 1 ton 9 cwts. 12 lbs.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	21	—	1	308	2180	—
Number inspected ...	21	—	1	308	2180	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ... Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	2	1205	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	28.5	—	100.0	0.6	55.3	—
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	0.3	—
Cysticercosis : Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Poultry

Number of poultry processing premises ..	7
Number of visits to these premises	15
Estimated number and types of birds processed during the year :	
Turkeys	5,035
Hens	12,350
Capons	200
	<hr/>
Total	17,585
	<hr/>

Estimated percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	1%
Estimated weight of poultry rejected as unfit for human consumption	696 lbs.

Occasional visits are made to these premises to ensure that birds are dressed under hygienic conditions and that no unsound birds are sold. No complaints were received during the year regarding the condition of any poultry sold through these sources.

Foreign Matter and Mould Growth in Food

Of 16 complaints received during the year 12 concerned foreign matter in food and four involved mould growth. All these complaints were dealt with informally and due warnings were given where necessary.

Other Foods Inspected

The following table shows the quantities of other foods inspected, found unfit for human consumption and satisfactorily disposed of ; 97 visits were involved.

	<i>cwts. lbs.</i>
Canned Meats	3
Other canned foods	1 32
Fish	50
Frozen Foods due to cabinet breakdowns ..	9 85
Other Foods	15
	<hr/>
Total	11 73
	<hr/>

Food Sampling

The Staffordshire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for this area and during the year they took 25 samples of milk which were all found to be genuine, and 95 samples of various other foods of which four samples were found not genuine. All these concerned misleading labels which were altered.

Ice Cream

124 premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice cream, and a number of mobile vehicles based in adjacent districts also operate in this area. 17 visits were made for the purpose of sampling and a total of 19 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. The following table indicates the results of these samples.

GRADES				Total
1	2	3	4	
13	3	3	—	19

Milk

Milk sampling is carried out by the Staffordshire County Health Inspector, who, during the year, took the following 145 samples from within the district.

Untreated (farm bottled)	..	..	..	..	7
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	136
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	2

Five of these 145 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test ; these were samples of pasteurised milk.

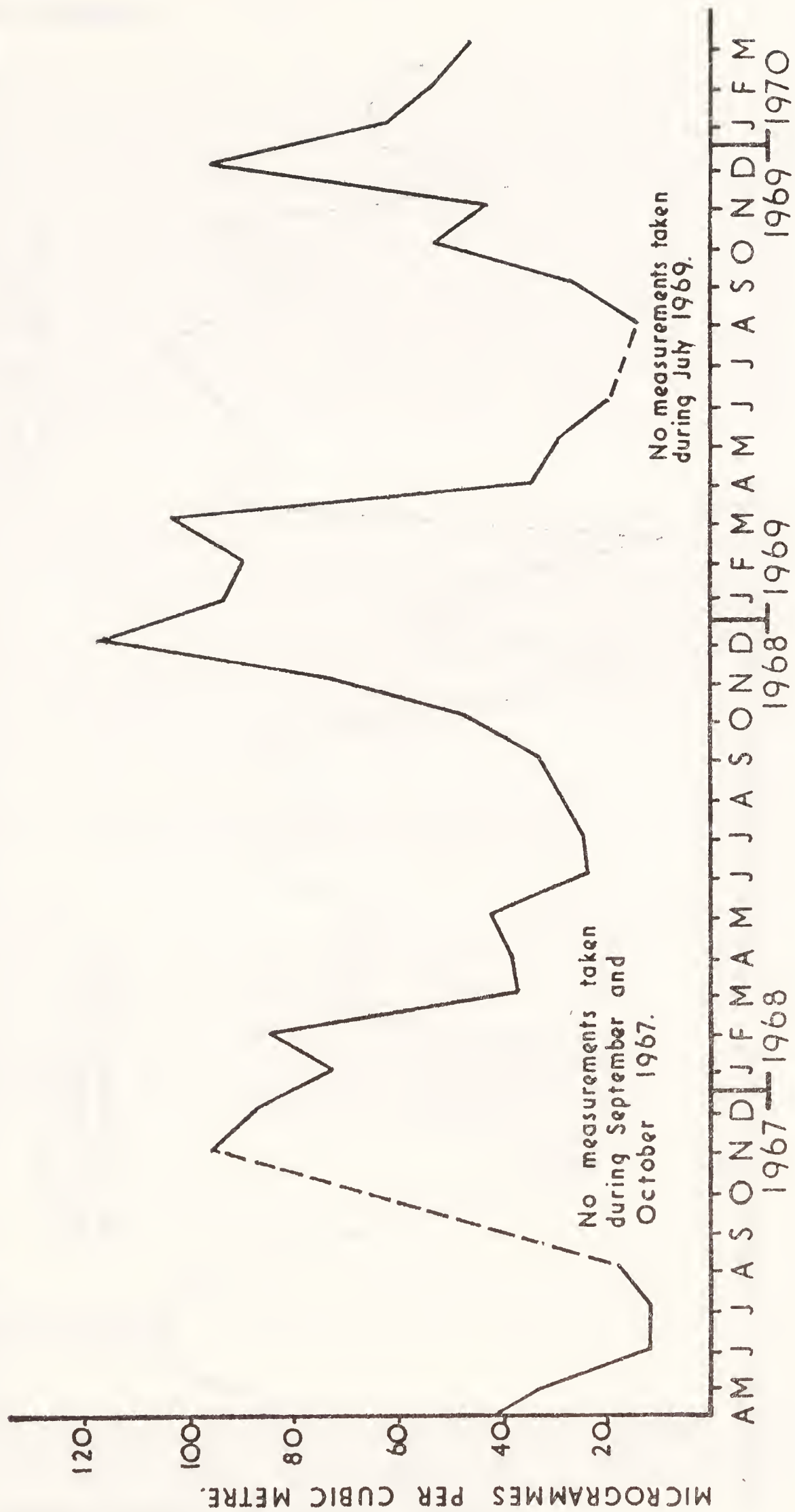
CLEAN AIR

Measurement of Pollution

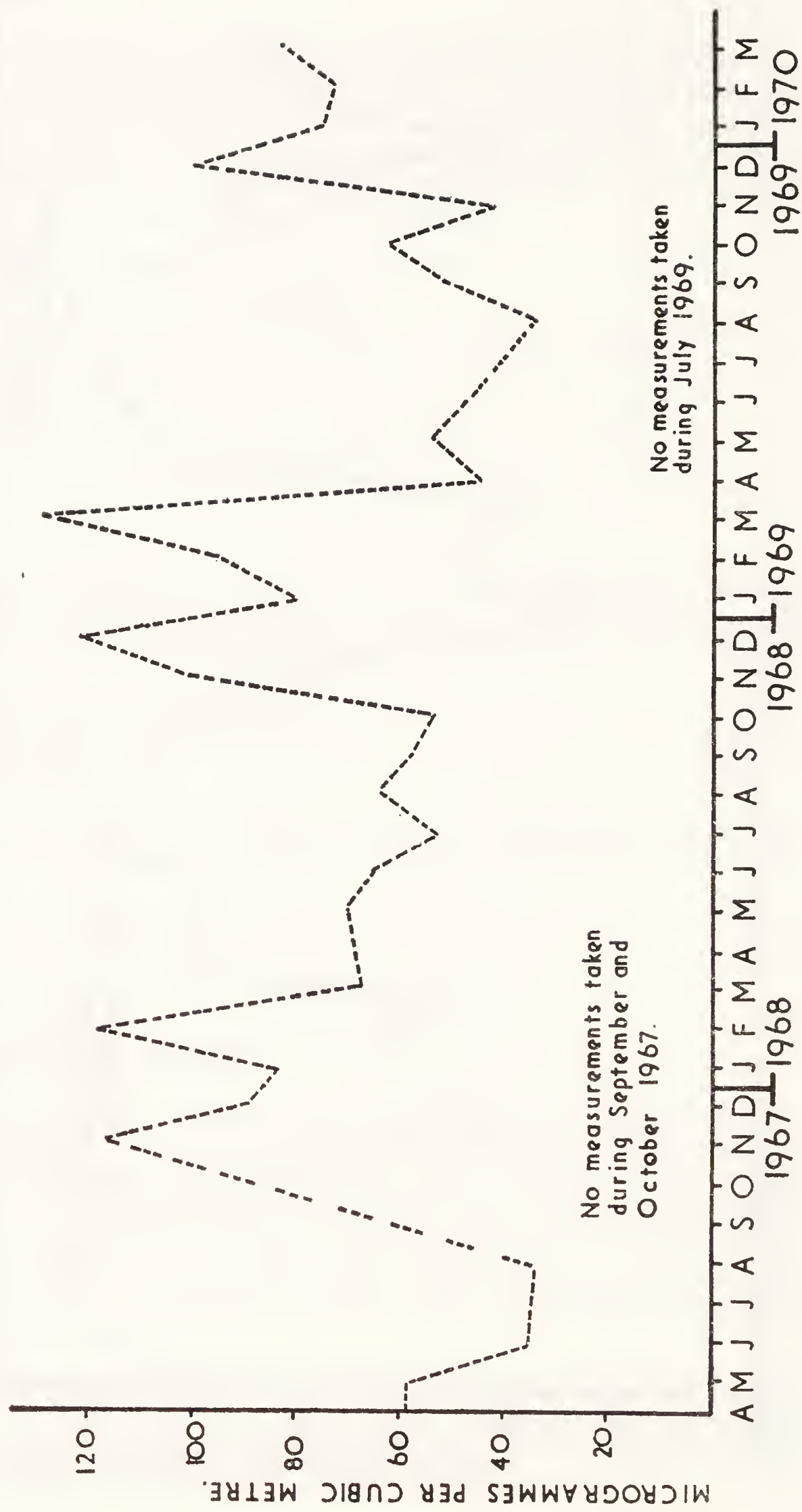
Since 1966 a standard volumetric measuring instrument has been sited at the Council Offices, Wombourne, and daily observations are taken of the smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. These records are used by the Warren Springs Laboratory of the Department of Trade and Industry in their National Survey of Air Pollution, from which valid conclusions are drawn on the incidence of air pollution in urban areas throughout the United Kingdom.

Although Wombourne is situated outside what are classed as the “Black Areas” in the Midlands, pollution wise, the record graphs which follow clearly indicate the need for smoke control areas here.

MONTHLY VARIATIONS IN SMOKE POLLUTION



MONTHLY VARIATIONS IN SULPHUR DIOXIDE POLLUTION



No measurements taken during September and October 1967.

No measurements taken during July 1969.

Domestic Pollution

In 1966 a progressive decision was made to include nearly 75% of the houses in the district in Smoke Control Areas within a Programme of fifteen years. This Programme which was approved in principle by the Ministry was intended to include those parts of the district which, due to their situation, were areas of heavy atmospheric pollution and it would also co-ordinate on the eastern boundaries with the Smoke Control Programme of neighbouring Authorities of the West Midlands Conurbation. Owing to the financial restrictions on local authority spending the first Order made under this Programme in 1967 in respect of the Bull Meadow area of Wombourne was delayed in 1968 and subsequently withdrawn in 1969.

Further delays were caused by the problems of availability of solid smokeless fuels, and in spite of your Council's decision to proceed with their smoke control programme during 1970 it was not practicable. An assurance upon the availability of solid smokeless fuels for the winter of 1972 has now permitted your Council to programme the Wombourne Smoke Control Order for operation in October, 1972, and it is to be hoped that there will be no more frustrating delays to be encountered.

The following table summarises the parts of the area which are included in operative Smoke Control Areas :—

<i>Order.</i>	<i>Area.</i>	<i>Acreage.</i>	<i>Premises.</i>
Seisdon No. 1	The Straits, Himley	57	36
Sedgley Nos. 2 and 7	Baggeridge, Himley	698	68
Sedgley No. 8	Himley Wood ..	5	—
Wolverhampton No. 2	Pendeford, Wrottesley	10	—
Sedgley No. 9	Gospel End, Himley	282	55
		<hr/> 1052 <hr/>	<hr/> 159 <hr/>

Industrial Pollution

It is pleasing to record that industrial smoke pollution from factories within this area presented no serious problems, and the co-operation of managements rectified the occasional contravention of the Clean Air Act which was encountered.

HOUSING

Housing Improvements

There was a noticeable increase during 1970 in the number of applications for improvement grants, which was undoubtedly due to the more favourable terms contained in the 1969 Housing Act. Furthermore, the opportunity to convert controlled tenancies into regulated tenancies, and thereby obtain "fair rents," encouraged many owners to make the necessary applications. Since the dwellings have to be in good repair to obtain the necessary qualification certificates, this is having the effect of improving the standard of repair in the older type of houses which it is so necessary to retain. In consequence, the table of improvements under the heading of "Housing Defects" reveals a substantial increase in work over previous years.

Qualification Certificates

Standard Amenities already provided

Number of Applications received during the year	35
Number of Qualification Certificates issued during the year	12

Standard Amenities not provided

Number of applications received during the year	4
Number of Certificates of provisional approval issued	3
Number of Qualification Certificates issued ..	Nil

Exemption for low income tenants

Number of certificates issued	Nil
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Housing Defects

43 Informal Notices were served during the year. These required the execution of essential repairs, improvements to water supplies and drainage, and conversion of pail closets to the water carriage system.

During the year repairs and improvements were effected in 67 houses within the district, and the following table indicates the nature of the works carried out.

Summary of Repairs and Improvements effected

Repairs to roof, walls and external structure	59
Internal repairs to walls, ceilings and floors	59
Repairs to doors, windows and other internal fittings	59
Dampness remedied	59
Repair and improvement to water supplies	1
Repair and improvement to drainage systems ..	27
Pail closets abolished	13
Water closets provided	14

Unfit Housing Programme

Since the commencement of the Unfit Housing Programme in 1955 a total of 653 unfit dwellings have been dealt with under the Housing Acts. 98 of these were included in 16 clearance areas and the remaining 555 were dealt with as individual unfit houses.

Two clearance areas were declared in 1970 and these included 21 unfit houses and a further 21 individual unfit houses not capable of repair at reasonable expense were represented and action taken as follows :—

Number of Demolition Orders made	18
Number of Undertakings not to Relet accepted ..	2
Number of Closing Orders made	1

At the end of the year a total of 140 houses remained to be dealt with and there were 54 unfit houses formally represented but still occupied.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

There are only two houses in the district which are known to be in use for multiple occupation and both of these are now satisfactory.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in this district.

CARAVANS

Adequate accommodation for caravans exists in this district on sites with high standards of amenity. The following sites are licensed for the number of caravans stated.

Sites licensed for more than one caravan :

Silver Poplars, Kingswood	..	..	21	caravans
White Harte, Kinver	..	..	29	..
Pendeford Hall, Wrotesley	..	..	68	..

Single caravan sites licensed for special purposes :

13 sites	13	caravans
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Council operated sites :

Hinksford Mobile Homes Park	..	135	caravans
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Your Council's model caravan park at Hinksford has operated most successfully since its construction commenced in 1965, and it provides a proper modern standard of living for those people who wish to reside in caravans. The population of the site is well balanced throughout the various age groups and includes single persons, newly married couples, young families, retired couples, and elderly widows. The high standards originally set have been carefully maintained by the constant vigilance of your resident Site Warden, Mr. J. D. Westwood. Caravans were changed during the year upon a third of the residential plots, and once again no plot fees were lost in any of these transfers.

Some 98 visits were made to licensed sites during the year and all license conditions were rigidly enforced. A further 43 inspections of land were made in the investigation of unauthorised sites for caravans, but no legal proceedings were necessary.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN OFFICES AND SHOPS

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act is designed to make provision for securing the health, safety, and welfare of persons employed to work in offices, shops and railway premises ; the Council's responsibilities are mainly for offices and shops, but not for offices in factories which are the responsibility of Her Majesty's Factory Inspectorate.

Since the Act came into operation in 1964, all registered premises are given a general inspection upon their first registration, and then become subject to routine re-inspections. Frequency of routine visits varies according to the type of premises. Advantage is taken of the fact that certain registered premises have to be inspected from time to time under other legislation, which enables more frequent inspections under this Act. The aim is that all registered premises should be visited at least once in each year.

The only lifts in this area to which the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (Hoists and Lifts) Regulations 1968 apply, are two service lifts, or 'dumbwaiters' in licenced hotels. Our experience in this field is far too limited to make any observations upon the operation of these Regulations.

We have paid special attention to ensuring that the Abstract of the Act in the form of Booklet OSR9B is displayed in registered premises ; the Inspectors hold a supply of these booklets and resell them where necessary. As the obligation to report accidents is defined on page 12 of this booklet, and since no knowledge of any accident which an occupier has failed to notify has been obtained, no special reminders have been given with regard to the reporting of accidents under section 48. Inspectors will, however, now make a special mention of this matter upon their future routine inspections.

Analysis of Contraventions found during 1970

Section 4—Cleanliness. Eight premises were found to be in need of redecoration in some part of the premises.

Section 6—Temperature. Three premises were without a suitable thermometer.

Section 7—Ventilation. In two premises improved means of ventilation was necessary.

Section 8—Lighting. There were two instances where lighting was inadequate and unsuitable.

Section 9—Sanitary Conveniences. Four premises had defective sanitary accommodation.

Section 10—Washing Facilities. Four premises had defective or deficient washing facilities.

Section 12—Accommodation for Clothing. In eight premises it was found that accommodation for clothing was inadequate ; mainly because there were no satisfactory arrangements for the drying of wet outdoor clothing.

Section 16—Floors, Passages and Stairs. Defective conditions existed in three premises.

Section 24—First Aid Provisions. In 12 premises first aid boxes were found not to be up to standard.

Section 48—Notification of Accidents. There were two accidents reported during the year. One was a driver who slipped from the cab of a delivery vehicle and the other was an injury to a man who was using a motor mower.

Section 50—Information to Employees. 20 premises were found not to have provided the necessary information to their employees.

Work done during 1970 :

Section of Act and Subject Matter.	Number of Registered premises where Improvements have been carried out to comply with the Act.			
	Offices	Shops	Catering Establish- ments	TOTAL
4 Cleanliness	—	5	3	8
6 Temperature	3	4	1	8
7 Ventilation	—	—	2	2
8 Lighting	2	—	1	3
9 Sanitary Conveniences ...	—	1	3	4
10 Washing Facilities ...	—	1	3	4
12 Accommodation for Cloth- ing	1	5	2	8
16 Floors, Passages, Stairs ...	—	2	1	3
24 First Aid Provision ...	2	8	5	15
50 Information to Employees	7	10	4	21
TOTALS	15	36	25	76

Registrations and General Inspections :

Class of Premises. (1)	Number of premises newly registered during the year. (2)	Total number of registered premises at end of year. (3)	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year. (4)
Offices	6	39	6
Retail Shops... ..	9	108	9
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	Nil	1	Nil
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	Nil	36	Nil
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	15	184	15

**Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to
Registered Premises :**

265

**Analysis by workplace of persons employed in Registered Premises
at end of year :**

Class of workplace (1)	No. of persons employed (2)
Offices	235
Retail Shops	373
Wholesale departments, warehouses	3
Catering establishments open to the public	302
Canteens	Nil
Fuel Storage depots	Nil
TOTAL	913
Total Males	374
Total Females	539

Exemptions—Nil.

Prosecutions—Nil.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN FACTORIES

Factories Act, 1961

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	No. on Register.	No. of		
		In-spections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	45	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	79	74	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	1	—	—
TOTAL	90	120	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1	1	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nil

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The following summary indicates the numbers of inspections and other visits paid by the Public Health Inspectors in respect of the subjects listed :—

Public Health Nuisances	..	..	..	..	217
Drainage	..	..	..	..	271
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	103
Dirty/Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	19
Piggeries/Other animals kept	..	..	..	..	29
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	40
Rodent and Insect Pest Control	..	..	..	..	254

Action in respect of nuisances includes repairs to houses where the defects can be regarded as “ prejudicial to health or a nuisance.”

Other activities included the provision and maintenance of satisfactory drainage, the conversion of pan closets to water closets, the investigation of infectious diseases, and the sampling of water supplies.

Samples taken

Water samples for bacteriological examination	..	260
Water samples for chemical examination	..	2

Complaints

Some 1,373 complaints were received during the year and these were all investigated and the appropriate action taken where necessary. 707 related to the presence of rats, mice and other pests ; 110 concerned obstructed drains ; all these were dealt with expeditiously by your rodent operative. 381 complaints on refuse collection were promptly dealt with and the other 175 concerning offensive smells, noise, atmospheric pollution, unsound food, water supply, housing defects, litter, etc., were given careful investigation.

Noise Abatement

13 complaints of nuisance from noise were received during the year, and although this number was rather less than the previous year the nature of the problems involved followed the usual patterns. The biggest problem is still that of new housing development in close proximity to factory sites.

Investigation of noise complaints can be a very lengthy business and normally involves a lot of repetitive visiting often at awkward times. Nevertheless your inspectors have managed to obtain a lot of improvements by informal action, and a total of 71 inspections were made.

Hairdressers and Barbers

Byelaws were made in 1963 for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises at which a hairdressers or barbers business is carried on and of the instruments, towels, materials and equipment used therein, and the cleanliness of hairdressers or barbers working in such premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

21 inspections were carried out upon the 19 premises concerned and a number of improvements were effected.

Inspections under the Housing Acts

Preliminary surveys of houses	..	....	..	23
Primary inspections .. ..	..	..	..	114
Re-inspections .. ..	..	..	..	343
Inspections re Improvement	..	..	..	133
Investigation of Overcrowding	..	..	..	6
Qualification Certificates ..	..	..	..	99

Petroleum Consolidation Act

87 premises were licensed under this Act for the storage of petroleum spirit. 21 of these are public filling stations and 66 are private installations.

Conditions of licence are based on the Home Office Model Code, and are designed to protect those who come into close contact with highly inflammable substances. The small number of incidents that occur would seem to fully justify what sometimes may appear to be stringent requirements.

A total of 234 inspections were made under this Act and the following works effected :—

Tanks and Pipelines tested	..	..	..	21
Vent pipes repaired .. ..	..	..	..	6
Fire Equipment made up to scale	..	..	..	28
Safety Warning Notices provided	..	..	..	27
Electrical Equipment checked	..	..	..	13

Theatres Act

Licences are issued for the public performance of stage plays at certain village halls and schools. Conditions are imposed for the general safety of members of the public who attend these performances. They control the maximum numbers to be admitted, the arrangements for seating and gangways, the adequacy of exits and the emergency lighting of these, the provision of satisfactory fire fighting appliances and the fire proofing of stage materials, and other general matters in the interests of public safety. A close liaison is maintained with the Fire Prevention Officers of the Staffordshire County Council and their advice and recommendations are strictly adhered to.

Seven halls were licensed during the year for 13 stage productions, and 26 inspections made to ensure that their conditions were fully complied with.

Animal Boarding

The Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963, is designed to regulate the keeping of boarding establishments for animals and to ensure that the animals are housed and cared for satisfactorily and that precautions are taken to prevent the spreading of diseases. There are seven licensed establishments in the district and 21 inspections were made.

Pet Shops

There are three licensed pet shops in the district.

Rodent Control

Treatments for the eradication of rats and mice at dwellings are carried out free of charge ; business premises are charged on a time and material basis. The following table shows the work carried out by your Rodent Operative in 1970.

Properties other than Sewers :

- 1. Number of properties in district
- 2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification
- (b) Number infested by :
 - (i) Rats
 - (ii) Mice
- 3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification
- (b) Number infested by :
 - (i) Rats
 - (ii) Mice

Type of Property	
Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
12,652	489
391	14
308	14
38	—
34	—
21	—
2	—

Sewer Treatment

The situation in the sewers of the district was again found to be very satisfactory with 190 manholes being baited and no “ takes ” being recorded.

Other Pests

Your Rodent Operative also deals with wasps nests and any other serious infestation of insects at dwellinghouses as a free public health service.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Staffing	1970	1969	1968	1967
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Establishment—

Refuse collectors, including reliefs	37	35	35	36
Cesspool and pan emptiers ..	4	4	4	4
Tip and Depot Attendants ..	2	2	2	2
Litter Clearance and Salvage Baling	1	2	2	2
Cleansing Foreman	1	1	1	1
Vehicle Mechanics	3	3	3	3
Rodent Operative	1	1	1	1
	49	48	48	49

Labour Turnover rate	24%	8%	25%	16%
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Causes of Absence—

Sickness rate	6.4%	7.4%	7.7%	4.3%
Absentee rate	2.6%	0.4%	1.0%	0.9%
Days lost through accidents..	28	13	4	17

Personal details—

Average age of employees (years)	43	44	44	43
Average length of service (years)	8½	8	8½	8
Disabled employees	1	1	1	2

At the close of the year, Mr. E. T. Waine retired from the position of Cleansing Foreman after 16½ years of faithful service. Mr. A. S. Rogers, already a driver with 23 years with your Council, was promoted as his successor.

Since re-organisation in 1966 the number of premises in the district has grown by some 14% ; and it is worthy of comment that the establishment is still less than it was then. This has been achieved by a steady conversion of premises to the refuse sack system together with careful adjustment of rounds and a forward looking vehicle programme.

Refuse Storage Arrangements

	1970	1969	1968	1967
Dustbins replaced under rate borne scheme	904	873	989	1,185
Dustbins sold	90	68	68	69
Sack holders provided under replacement schemes	266	746	420	124
Sack holders sold or provided for new houses	11	33	37	51
Premises using refuse sacks (at 31st December)	2,340	2,084	1,353	866

For the last five years dustbins issued have been of black plastic construction of $3\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet capacity, and these have proved most satisfactory. There is every indication that their life will be equal to if not better than the traditional galvanised bin which they replaced.

Refuse sack stands originally issued were free standing models with the sacks suspended within protection guards. Present issues are of the plastic tub type of holder which has proved equally suitable and has the advantage of being both cheaper and more suitable for plastic sacks.

Both paper and plastic sacks have been used in this area and found equally suitable. Now that our particular requirements in size and gauge are much cheaper in plastic, the use of paper sacks has been discontinued.

Refuse Collection Arrangements

	1970	1969	1968	1967
Premises collected from (at 31st December)	13,750	13,300	13,100	12,534
No. of dustbins and sacks on rounds (at 31st December)	16,419	16,289	16,056	15,518
No. of dustbins and sacks emptied in year	806,015	813,041	806,581	780,354
Productivity (bins/sacks emptied per man-hour)	13.7	13.7	12.9	12.8
Special collections of odd bulky items of house refuse	223	355	216	181
Rechargeable collections of miscellaneous refuse	43	64	56	39

A regular weekly collection service has been maintained throughout the year with the exception of those weeks following Bank Holidays. Refuse is collected from the rear of premises and empty bins are returned to their stance. The British Summer Time was a nuisance in the winter months once again and a later starting time had to be operated so that refuse receptacles did not have to stand on the kerbside long before daylight commenced.





Controlled Tipping at Seisdon



Civic Amenities Act — Refuse Disposal Point

Plans submitted under Building Regulations were examined and those proposing side garage erections were rejected unless they showed sufficient width to enable a dustbin to be wheeled through when an averaged sized car was parked.

I regret that there is no improvement in the problem of refuse storage at shop premises, and the back yards and even forecourts of some of the blocks of modern shop developments are a disgrace to their occupants. Some of them seem quite oblivious to the untidy array of receptacles and litter which prevails. I am disappointed that a greater use of proper bulk containers is not taken advantage of, presumably because of lack of agreement on the question of payment of charges.

Bulk Container Service

Our first bulk container vehicle has had an exceptionally busy year and the early need of a second vehicle is clearly obvious. Its basic functions are the servicing of the covered refuse containers of 10 cubic yard capacity on the sites provided in various parts of the district to comply with the requirements of the Civic Amenities Act and the transport of dried sludge from the sewage works press. It also caters for the collection of a certain amount of industrial waste and a number of special collections of garden and other refuse from dwellinghouses; both these services are of course rechargeable.

A photograph is included of one of the five sites provided throughout the district under the Civic Amenities Act.

Refuse Disposal

					Estimated annual tonnage disposed of			
					1970	1969	1968	1967
House and trade refuse collected	...				11,411	11,740	11,906	12,263
Litter, street sweepings, gully and cesspool								
sludge	...	...	...	...	365	1,340	1,415	1,479
Builders' and garden refuse	...	...			255	970	940	790
Industrial refuse	...	...	...	...	2,557	3,010	1,877	2,275
Household Rubbish collected from Civic								
Amenities Sites	...	...	...	...	2,074	—	—	—
					<hr/> 16,662 <hr/>	<hr/> 17,060 <hr/>	<hr/> 16,138 <hr/>	<hr/> 16,807 <hr/>

All domestic refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Seisdon tip. As a change from photographs of improperly controlled private tips I have this year included a picture of this Council's tip in order to show that refuse can be disposed of properly by this method under the proper circumstances.

The Botterham tip was kept in use for the disposal of the garden and other surplus refuse which is deposited in the large concrete bay there. It is regrettable that not all our neighbouring Authorities are yet providing their residents with such a convenient service and this results in many residents from outside our boundaries using the Rural District's facilities. Our small amount of fibre board salvaging had to be discontinued due to the continuous vandalism in the baling shed at Botterham.

There is no doubt that the container sites which have been provided are of immense benefit to residents for the disposal of garden and other refuse and they do help to reduce the amount of refuse which was previously dumped ; but the extent of this usage has so increased that an almost daily emptying has become necessary. This usage over weekends and Bank Holidays is particularly excessive and daily emptyings at these times have had to be arranged for most of the year.

Litter Clearance

		1970	1969	1968	1967
Litter baskets sited in area	.. ..	200	199	194	174
Abandoned vehicles disposed of	..	15	25	17	8

The special litter patrol vehicle operated throughout the year emptying litter receptacles, tidying trunk road lay-bys, urban centres and road verges ; but the extent of this work is such that a duplicate vehicle could easily be fully employed. All the main village centres were tidied up each weekend and a continuous process of litter clearance on the public commons was carried out throughout the year. The appointment of a Warden on Highgate Common by the Staffordshire County Council, and their choice of a dedicated man, has undoubtedly stopped the rapid deterioration of the public facilities there. At the time of writing this report the condition of this very large public open space is better than it has been for a long time.

On the prevention side we had some good litter projects from our Comprehensive Schools and Parish Councils, and an appreciable amount of physical litter clearance by these and certain other public spirited organisations.

We have had excellent co-operation from the Police in the taking of proceedings for offences under the Litter Act of 1958 ; but how frustrating that the total fines imposed in respect of 15 prosecutions taken during the year only amounted to £76. It is to be hoped that the increased maximum fines of £100 created by the Dangerous Litter Act of 1971 will result in much higher penalties being imposed.

I have continued to represent the Rural District Councils Association on the Keep Britain Tidy Group, an organisation which still does not receive enough support from individual Local Authorities, in spite of the fact that the Group's continued activities are for their benefit. Whilst I can appreciate the practical line of thought that litter once dropped has got to be picked up and the scope of the scavenging service has to be extended in proportion with the amount of litter, nevertheless it is equally important that measures of educational and propaganda value against the creation of litter must be constantly pursued. This is precisely what the Keep Britain Tidy Group are doing on a national basis, but their total budget is but a drop in the ocean compared with the cost of the scavenging services.

Cesspool and Pan Closet Emptying

	1970	1969	1968	1967
Premises draining to cesspools (31st December)	856	883	910	920
Cesspools emptied in year	2,681	2,682	2,921	2,781
Thousands of gallons removed from cesspools	4,483	4,079	4,947	4,816
Premises with conservancy closets	93	103	134	155
Pans emptied in year	5,527	6,890	8,400	10,839

Two cesspool emptying vehicles are engaged on this service, and cesspools are emptied upon demand except for those parts of the district where a regular routine emptying has been organised. Every opportunity is taken to gradually extend these routine emptying programmes. Those few pan closets which now remain are emptied weekly.

Public Conveniences

There are seven public conveniences throughout the district ; they all receive regular cleansing and maintenance, but vandalism and abuse continue to make this a frustrating service to maintain.

Vehicle Maintenance

	1970	1969	1968	1967
Number of road vehicles regularly serviced	38	38	37	36
Percentage of working time vehicles under repair	2.6%	3.4%	3.2%	2.4%
Total fleet mileage	360,163	357,800	357,100	347,700
Total accidents involving vehicles... ..	9	16	15	12
Mileage per road accident where Council driver to blame	90,040	119,270	71,420	57,950
Number of Safe Driving Awards	27	24	26	26

Most of the Council vehicles are garaged at Heath Mill Depot where there is a modern fully equipped repair workshop and paint spray room. Set servicing schedules are laid down for all vehicles, which are called in at least once every four weeks for inspection, servicing, repair and testing.

Your three mechanics have again achieved the difficult task of maintaining your vehicles up to the high standard now required by legislation, and it is to their credit that no vehicle has yet failed its test.

Vehicle Fleet Details

<i>No. and Type.</i>	<i>Service.</i>
3 Dennis Paxits (14/35 cu. yd.) ..	Refuse Collection.
2 Karrier Ramillies (7/20 cu. yd.)	Refuse collection.
2 Karrier Ramillies (14/35 cu. yd.)	Refuse Collection.
1 Karrier Dual Tip (12 cu. yd.) ..	Refuse Collection.
2 Karrier Dual Tips (25 cu. yd.)	Refuse Collection.
1 Karrier Multi Lift (8 tons) ..	Refuse Collection and Sewerage.
1 Ford Eagle (3 cu. yd.)	Litter Collection.
2 Bray Shovels (1¼ cu. yd.) ..	Refuse Disposal.
2 Karrier-Yorkshire (1,000 gallon)	Cesspool and Pan Emptying.
1 Karrier-Yorkshire (1,400 gallon)	Sewerage.
1 Ford-Yorkshire (800 gallon) ..	Sewerage.
1 Commer Tipper (5 tons) ..	Sewerage.
1 Ford Tipper (3 tons)	Housing Maintenance.
1 Ford Tipper (25 cwt.)	Green Areas.
2 Ford Tippers (17 cwt.) ..	Housing Maintenance.
1 Ford Tipper (15 cwt.)	Green Areas.
2 Bedford Personnel Carriers (15 cwt.)	Housing Maintenance and Sewerage.
2 Ford Tractors	Green Areas and Sewerage.
2 Ford Vans (5 cwt.)	Sewerage and Housing Maintenance.
4 Ford Vans (6 cwt.)	Sewerage and Housing Maintenance.
1 Ford Van (6 cwt.)	Rodent Operator.
1 Ford Van (15 cwt.)	Housing Repairs.
1 Land Rover (16 cwt.)	Vehicle Maintenance.
3 Dumpers	Sewerage.
1 Ford Van (5 cwt.)	R.W.V.S.—Meals on Wheels.

Inspections and Visits by Public Health Inspectors

Refuse Collection	259
Refuse Disposal	364
Litter Clearance	249
Transport Maintenance	76
Public Convenience	61
Trade Refuse Collection	135
Salvage Recovery	6
Civic Amenities Act	79

Annual expenditure on Public Cleansing

	1969/70	1968/69	1967/68
Nett Cost—	£	£	£
Refuse Collection	56,538	53,341	51,416
Dustbin Replacement Scheme	3,088	3,673	4,700
Refuse Disposal and Salvage	5,545	4,515	4,414
Litter Clearance	3,718	3,667	3,786
Pan and Cesspool Emptying	8,564	8,639	7,865
Public Conveniences	2,231	2,032	2,272
Drain Clearing	687	475	415
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	80,371	76,342	74,868
Income—All Services	3,558	2,622	1,591
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross Cost	83,929	78,964	76,459
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate burden for services shown	5p	11½d.	12¼d.

Overall Unit Costs of Various Services

	1969/70	1968/69	1967/68
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dry Refuse Removal—			
Per ton collected	4.75	4 10 6	4 5 5
Per ton disposed of	0.33	6 2	6 2
Per dustbin emptied	0.07	1 3	1 3
Collection and Disposal—			
Per premises per year	4.90	4 14 5	4 10 6
Pan Emptying—			
Per premises collected from per year	15.13	12 17 11	9 11 9
Per pan collected	0.26	4 7	3 3
Cesspool Emptying—			
Per cesspool emptied	2.66	2 12 2	2 9 0
Per premises per year (average)	8.34	8 5 0	7 5 9
Per 1,000 gallons removed	1.59	1 13 6	1 11 2

Total Fleet Operating Costs (All Council's vehicles—drivers' wages not included) :

	1969/70	1968/69	1967/68
Vehicles in fleet	38	37	36
Gross Cost	£37,765	£30,820	£27,650
Cost per road mile	10.6p	1/9¼d.	1/6½d.
Proportion of total costs—			
Fuels and Lubricants	20%	21%	19%
Repairs	35%	36%	39%
Road Tax and Insurance	11%	12%	9%
Depreciation	20%	16%	19%
Depot and Administration	14%	15%	14%







